

Mr. K. T. Achyutan (Ezhuvas-Talappalli): What is the policy adopted by the present Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): Claims of un-represented communities are also considered.

Mr. K. T. Achyutan (Ezhuvas-Talappalli): May I know whether any special regard is shown to unrepresented communities.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): Which are the unrepresented communities of the State?

Mr. President: Not unrepresented; but under-represented.

Mr. K. S. Panicker (Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram): May I know whether efficiency is the monopoly of certain communities.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): It is not.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): May I know the number of Munsiffs promoted as District Judges.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): Four.

ANSWERING OF QUESTIONS SENT BY M.L.Cs.

138. **Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters):** Will Government be pleased to state.—

- (a) what is the method adopted for answering questions by M.L.Cs.;
- (b) are they answered according to the priority of receipt;
- (c) can any officer see to it that certain questions are shelved;
- (d) will it be strictly ordered that all questions should be answered according to priority?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government):

(a) After they are admitted, the questions are distributed to the respective departments of the Secretariat who in their turn collect the necessary information from the respective Heads of Departments, if the information is not readily available in the Secretariat itself. On receipt of the necessary materials they are scrutinised and answers are prepared in the Secretariat and then those answers are transmitted to the Law Department who arrange for their printing.

(b) No.

(c) No. On the other hand Government wish to answer all the questions received if they can possibly do it.

(d) This will hinder prompt answering of questions.

ENLARGING THE SCOPE OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

139. **Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters):** Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether in pursuance of the repeated resolutions of the Council Government have made any move for enlarging the scope of the Constitutional Reforms in the direction of grant of responsible Government and if so, when will such reforms come into effect;

(b) whether Government have considered the necessity for allowing the Legislative Council to elect its own President?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government):

(a) The question has not escaped the attention of Government.

(b) Not, so far.

TANNERIES, CHALAKKUDI

140. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (Nellayi):** Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the Tanneries in Chalakkudi has been sold or leased to any one; if so on what conditions;

(b) whether any one offered to conduct the Tanneries as tanneries; if so on what conditions;

(c) whether the Manager of Techno Chemical Industries, Calicut applied for getting the same; if so on what conditions;

(d) whether Government advertised in the papers regarding this?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government):

(a) About 10 acres of the Cochin Tanneries premises has been leased to the Standard Furniture Co. Ltd., Kallai for 25 years for starting a Plywood Factory on a yearly rent of

Rs. 600 for the 1st 5 years, Rs. 750 for the next 5 years and any amount to be mutually agreed upon by the Government and the Company for the remaining 15 years with option for the lessee to purchase the premises during the 1st 10 years of the lease at the current market rate. The remaining portion is also proposed to be leased to the same company for starting a chemical and pharmaceutical factory.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. No conditions were offered by the applicant and Government did not offer any conditions as by that time the proposal to lease the premises to the Standard Furniture Co. Ltd., was sanctioned.

(d) No. Government did not consider it necessary to advertise.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (Nellayi): Sir with reference to (c) it is said "No conditions were offered by the applicant and Government did not offer any conditions since by that time the proposal to lease the premises to the Standard Furniture Company Ltd. was sanctioned". If the Government had advertised; would not have the Government got better offers.

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): The Manager of the Techno Chemical Industries were told that the Government had no objection if he would find another suitable site. He was not refused.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (Nellayi): What was the objection in advertising?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): Government are anxious to have as many industries as possible.

Mr. President: The area comes to about 20 acres. This is the back portion of the area already leased and it has been lying waste for almost 15 years. We have been endeavouring to encourage persons to start industries here. This is not the only area where industry can be started. When a reasonable proposal was put forward to start a factory under private management in the State in which Cochinites will hold the majority of shares and when they offered to take up this land, we of course accepted the proposal and I think that by the opening of this chemical and pharmaceutical factory at Chalakkudi the general progress of the State will increase.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): May I know whether with regard to the leasing of the remaining portion of the premises any terms have been negotiated.

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): Everything has been fixed. In fact everything is over except the registration of the Company.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): May I know what are the terms?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): About 13 acres of land and the buildings are proposed to be leased out for 25 years. For the first 5 years the rent is Rs. 1,200, for the next 5 years it is Rs. 1,600 and for the remaining 15 years the amount of rent is to be mutually agreed upon by both parties with option to them to purchase the property for Rs. 35,000.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): Is the Government satisfied that as regards the 10 acres already leased, the condition to purchase it within 10 years at the current market rate is hard.

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): The price has not been fixed with regard to the 10 acres. They have the option to purchase it at a price which will be considered reasonable by both parties.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): The suggestion I make is that that term is not to the advantage of the State. Now that we have entered into an agreement with regard to the 10 acres, there is no going back upon it. But atleast with regard to the remaining acres cannot we have some term which may not be settled now. When you sell it you are parting with all your rights and the Standard Furniture Company becomes the owner of the whole site with all the rights of ownership.

Mr. President: I may mention to the Hon'ble Member that the Company has come here with many restrictions regarding capital and management, a certain number of Cochinites being on the Board of Directors. I may also inform the House that the manager of the new Company is a Cochinite. I do not think that the Hon'ble Member need have any fears as to the future. We are as the Hon'ble Member himself, very anxious to see that the industrial development of the State should go ahead and so we have to offer some attractive terms to companies who have had success elsewhere or to a company which is going to start one here with a manager of exceptional ability as Mr. A. K. Menon, who has earned a reputation under the Government of

Madras. If they come along and ask for a site I think it is only reasonable that the Government should offer reasonable terms.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): There is this difficulty, Sir. In the light of the observations made by the Chair, i.e., when a Company comes and asks a site to start a firm here it is only right that the Government do offer favourable terms, I have no quarrel with that. I am also not complaining that the interests of the State have not been looked into. With regard to the agreement already entered into, the Diwan has been pleased to State that the interests of the State and the Cochinites will be completely safeguarded with the various arrangements with regard to management, directorate, etc. With regard to the Company that is now going to be started has any such arrangement been entered into? I believe it is a private Company.

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): The idea is to register a Company here and to sell shares to Cochinites. But as in the case of the Cochin Textiles if Cochinites are going to sell away all their shares, what can the Government do?

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): What is meant by 750 for the next five years and any amount to be mutually agreed upon by the Government and the Company for the remaining 15 years.

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): After the 10th year, the amount of rent may have to be still further increased. That will be fixed then.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): May I know what is the revenue of this land per acre.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): It is very little.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar): Somewhere about Rs. 100 for the whole plot.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Is it 5 rupees per acre.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar): In all about 100 or 120 rupees. There are a few arecanut trees, jack trees and a few old mango trees which are not yielding.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): May I know whether the Standard Furniture Company has been doing anything in the way of Chemical and Pharmaceutical business.

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): Mr. A. K. Menon has considerable experience in that line. He will be the Manager of the Company.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): May I know whether the Standard Furniture Company has been doing the business mentioned here anywhere outside Cochin or whether they are going to start a Company in the State.

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): It is not the Standard Furniture Company which is going to undertake the business. They will float another Company and a very competent person will be put in charge of this work.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): May I know the purpose for which the technological Chemical Industries, Calicut applied for the site?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): They wanted to start a hand paper mill and also a chemical factory for the manufacture of perfumes.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): May I know why it has been decided finally to give this site for Rs. 35,000 without ascertaining from other Companies whether they were prepared to pay more.

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): All the terms were settled before the other offer came. For a very long time the Government have been waiting for offers. When a suitable offer came, they accepted it. That is all.

Mr. President: Mr. Menon is an expert with a high reputation and is now working under the Madras Government in Calicut. The idea of getting him to come this side had been mentioned in my speech at the opening of the plywood factory and it has been the hope of the Government that we will be able to start a concern under his control in this State for some time past because he is a man with special qualifications and he has also proved his abilities for this kind of work. He has a very high reputation in Madras.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Is not this gentleman the manager of the Calicut Soap Factory?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): Yes.

Mr. Joseph Pettah (Adur): Suppose at the end of the 10th year the Government and the gentleman concerned cannot come to an agreement as regards the amount to be paid. What will be the remedy?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): Automatically the lease will terminate.

Mr. Joseph Pettah (Adur): Suppose the reason is on his side and the Government are on the wrong side.

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): The option is reserved with the Government.

NON-GRADUATE CLERKS IN THE REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT

141. Mr. L. M. Pylee (Latin-Christians-Ernakulam): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether there have been requests from non-graduate clerks of the Registration Department with over 20 years service for promotion to the grade of Rs. 60—80 as District Registrars;

(b) if the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, whether promotion has been given to any such non-graduate during the last 3 years;

(c) is there not a Government Order by which non-graduates with 20 years approved service on 1st Vrischigam 1115 may be considered exempt from the graduate rule for purposes of promotion up to Rs. 100;

(d) are not promotions being given to non-graduates in other departments in view of Government Order referred in (c) above;

(e) if the answer to (d) is in the affirmative, why is it that the Government do not extend the same concession to the non-graduate clerks of the Registration Department in the matter of appointment as District Registrars;

(f) is there any post on Rs. 60—80 in the Registration Branch of the Department other than that of a District Registrar to which a non-graduate can aspire promotion;

(g) has not the Registration Manual been amended recently on the lines of the British Registration Manual;

(h) is not the table of fees here on a par with that in force in British India;

(i) are not Government aware that a certain percentage of the Sub-Registrar's posts in British India is filled up by promoting non-graduate clerks of the department;

(j) if the answer to (i) above is in the affirmative why is it that Government departs from the British policy, in the matter of such promotions alone?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government):

(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes, in suitable cases where such posts are available and fall vacant.

(e) Government do not consider that the graduate rule could be relaxed in this case.

(f) Nil.

(g) Yes.

(h) The rate of fees of the Madras Presidency are usually adopted in the State also. The rates there were revised recently with effect from 1st April 1943. The question of adopting the same rates here also is under consideration.

(i) No information here.

(j) Does not arise in view of the answer to (i).

Mr. K. S. Panicker (Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram): Is it necessary to have special qualifications for graduates and undergraduates to hold the post of district registrars.

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): It is considered better and more efficient to appoint only graduates as registrars.

Mr. K. S. Panicker (Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram): Is it compulsory?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): The Government have decided that to the post of registrar which is certainly a responsible job, only graduates should be appointed.

Mr. K. S. Panicker (Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram): Is it necessary to have special tests?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): They should pass the registration test.

Mr. K. S. Panicker (Joint Secretary to Government): In the case of new recruitments will the Government be pleased to see that those who have passed the registration tests are appointed as far as possible.

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): Government would give preference to such people.